



CITY OF EL PASO TREE BOARD

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009 @ 3:30 P.M.

2 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 6TH FLOOR

CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Members Present

Oscar Mestas, Chair
Raymond Bader
Wynn Anderson
Mark Benitez
James Tolbert
John White

Members Absent

David Morales
Lewis Wright
Lois Balin

Staff Present

Joel McKnight, Assistant Director
Parks & Recreation Department
Brent Pearson, Street Department
Lucy Calderon, Recording Secretary

Late Arrivals/Early Departures: Raymond Bader arrived at 3:55 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman, Oscar Mestas at 3:35 p.m.
2. **Motion to approve the Minutes of October 13, 2008 made by Mark Benitez; seconded by John White; all in favor; motion carried.**
3. **Discussion and Information on Spring Arbor Day Celebration:** Decision was made to have only the Fall Arbor Day Celebration this year due to the fact that Water Utilities will have Recycle Day in April at the same time Arbor Day is usually held. A Friday in October will be chosen for the Fall Arbor Day in a future Tree Board meeting.
4. **Discussion and Information on Filling Vacant Seats on Tree Board:** Two seats are now open on Tree Board. Mayor's appointee and Representative Beto O'Rourke, District 8. As per Oscar Mestas, David Morales stated he would no longer be attending meetings if he was not present in March 2009. John White suggested Albert Villalobos for a possible appointee by the Mayor.
5. **Discussion and Information on Status of park and street tour:** April 13, 2009 Tree Board meeting will be touring parks from 2-4 p.m. May 11, 2009 Tree Board will be touring streets from 2-4 p.m.
6. **Discussion and Action on Modification to Tree and Plant List: None Given**
7. **Discussion and Information** on possible training objectives for city employees' pruning trees, pruning ash trees on Missouri Street by street tree crews. Short video by Oscar Mestas on dangerous pruning and mistakes being made by city crews. Goal is to have a city crew trained to do pruning for the entire city.
8. **Open Comment Period:** Mark Benitez stated that a committee is being formed to support the Storm Water Utility and would like to invite whomever interested to join. Ballet in May is for rate portion to go back to the City and management stays with the Public Service Board. This committee is not in favor of any changes. Brent Pearson stated that there will be a Regional Texas Public Works Administration Conference here in El Paso June 10-13, 2009. Tree City USA may be interested in a booth. Wynn Anderson discussed a plant sale at

UTEP, April 25-26. Also, Friday, April 24th at 7:00 p.m. is a free conference with Kelly Allred, Professor of Animal and Range Sciences in New Mexico State University. His specialty is the study of southwestern grasses.

9. **Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.**